



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

David Orentlicher



*Working to make
health care insurance
more affordable*

I have continued my work with a study group to make health care insurance available to more people at more affordable prices.

Please see the back of this card for details.

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Healthcare Reform Policies



Representative
**David
Orentlicher**

Since January 2005, my study group on health care has reviewed reforms in other states, from Oregon to Tennessee and Utah to Massachusetts, to see which reforms have worked and which have not. For some reforms, as in Massachusetts where new legislation will be implemented next summer, it is too soon to draw any conclusions.

But we did find one excellent model for Indiana – at the Veterans Affairs health care system. Since 1998, the VA system has implemented a program of quality improvement and cost containment that researchers praise as a model for other health care systems.

WHY THE SUCCESS? A number of factors have contributed:

- VA doctors, researchers and administrators have developed standards of excellence for medical care, and the VA expects its doctors and nurses to meet those standards.
 - The VA reviews the care that its doctors and nurses deliver and sends regular “report cards” so health care personnel know how well they are doing.
 - Bonuses are paid to those who perform at high levels of quality.
 - The VA has created a computer-based system for medical records that makes it possible to remind doctors and nurses about the care they should be providing, and also to track how well doctors and nurses are doing.
- IMPROVING MEDICAID IN INDIANA**
- The VA model offers a way for Indiana to improve the quality of care Medicaid patients receive. At the same time, we can contain the costs of Medicaid so more of the uninsured can be covered.



Accordingly, I will be proposing a pilot program through Wishard Hospital and the Indiana University Medical Group for Medicaid recipients in Marion County. If the pilot program is successful, then it can be expanded to the rest of the state.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

The proposal will address not only the needs of lower income persons who might qualify for Medicaid benefits. It will also address the unaffordability of health care for employees of small businesses.

Many employers want to provide health care insurance for their workers but simply cannot afford to do so. The proposal will include an option for small businesses to enroll their employees in the Wishard-IU Medical Group pilot program. Because of its efficiencies, the pilot program’s costs should be substantially lower than comparable plans available from commercial insurance companies.

After more than a year-and-a-half of study, I believe we can make our Medicaid program work better and also make private health care insurance more affordable. As I work out the details of the proposal, I will share them with you.

